MONTEREY NEWS

DECEMBER 1992

TOWN NEWS

The Selectmen met with School Superintendent Thomas Consolati, Monterey's School Committee Representative Evelyn Vallianos and School Committee member Mark Bachetti to discuss the future of the Monterey kindergarten. Mr. Bachetti, who has suggested closing the kindergarten, noted that the agreement among the five towns comprising the regional school district mandates the procedure for closing a school and that only the residents of a town can vote to close a school in that town. He assured the Selectmen that the School Committee is only beginning to investigate the issue and has made no formal recommendations.

The School Committee is in the process of reassessing its programs and questions whether the one-room schoolhouse is meeting children's needs. Mr. Consolati believes that it is in the best interests of the children for the district to review educational systems and programs frequently. The Superintendent also discussed the possibility of a full-day kindergarten program and a pre-kindergarten program that could be tied in with the Children's Health Program.

Selectman Bill Bohn noted that the federal government has mandated that the states provide day care facilities for their residents, and that Massachusetts is passing that mandate on to the education system, which will force schools to pay for child care. Mr. Consolati asked whether the Monterey kindergarten could accommodate an extended kindergarten program, if such a program is mandated by the state.

Evelyn Vallianos stressed the fact that various options were merely being investigated at the present time. During a later conversation, Mr. Bohn expressed dismay at the possibility of kindergarten-aged children traveling on the same bus as high school students, noting that there are already language and behavior problems on school buses. He noted that the School Board is unwilling to provide separate buses for younger children because of the expense. Mrs. Vallianos responded to those concerns by saying that transporting kindergartners to Mount Everett has never been considered an option for Monterey children.

Due to the recent revelations concerning the non-conforming use regulations in Monterey's zoning bylaw (see *Town News*, in the November issue), the Selectmen have voted unanimously to initiate the following procedure for obtaining a building permit:

1) The Board of Selectmen will accept all applications for building permits, together with the $15 application fee, and will then approve or disapprove all such applications.

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2) If an application for a building permit is disapproved by the Selectmen because of a non-conformity, copies of the disapproved application will be distributed to the Board of Appeals, and then to other relevant boards for their input.

3) The Board of Appeals will make its determination and then send the application to the Inspector of Buildings.

4) The Inspector of Buildings will review the application for conditions that may have been set by the Board of Appeals and then proceed accordingly.

In a related matter, the Selectmen have had extensive discussions about the zoning bylaw violations at the Simon property on Sylvan Road, Lake Garfield. As a result of their many consultations with Town Counsel, informal discussions with members of other town boards, and review of numerous relevant court decisions, the Selectmen have decided that the building must be moved out of the setback area. However, the aforementioned court decisions suggest that the town cannot force removal of the building, because the non-conforming uses section of Monterey's zoning bylaw would likely not stand up in court. The Chairman of the Board of Selectmen will discuss with the Simons' attorney the future steps that will be taken.

The Board of Selectmen will not issue permits for hunting on town-owned land. Selectman Peter Brown pointed out the fact that the Selectmen have no jurisdiction to issue such permits, and that no permits will be given unless and until the voters authorize the Selectmen to grant such permission.

In a related matter, the Highway Department has posted signs stating that hunters must obtain written permission from land owners in order to hunt on their property. Questions regarding land owner liability have been raised. Are land owners liable for hunting accidents on their property? If a hunter strays onto an abutter's property, is the land owner liable? Does the issuance of permission to hunt mean that the land owner gives up the right to press charges in the event of a mishap? These and other questions have not been addressed or answered.

Maynard Forbes addressed the Board of Selectmen about the reserved parking spaces in front of the Monterey Church. He expressed opposition to the reserved parking, noting that it affects the whole town. Mr. Forbes pointed out that the spaces were initially

meant as a drop-off place for the handicapped and elderly, but now the blockades and cones take up three parking spaces. He also noted that the space has been blocked off at times other than during Sunday morning services. Furthermore, the blockades read *Church Parking*, although drop-off, not parking is meant. The Selectmen explained that the drop-off area is a one-month experiment, and that it is meant for Sunday mornings only. Selectman Bohn agreed to contact the church about modifying the system.

Ray Tryon addressed the Board, proposing a 20 MPH speed limit through downtown Monterey that would be particularly enforced on weekends. Police Chief Gordon Hamm noted that the Police Department is taking a serious look at such an idea, including posting a *Speed Decrease Ahead* warning sign. Chief Hamm also noted that *Crosswalk* signs for downtown Monterey have been ordered.

Sealed bids for price per ton of 3,000 tons of road sand for the Highway Department were opened by the Selectmen on October 26. Two bids were received: Lane Construction Corporation of Meriden, Connecticut; $9.95 per ton and J. Donovan & Son, Inc. of Stockbridge, Massachusetts; $7.44 per ton. The Board voted unanimously to accept the Donovan bid.

In other Highway Department news, the Board heard the latest of several requests from Glenn Heller asking for installation of guard rails on Tyringham Road at what he considers to be a particularly dangerous corner. The Selectmen responded that there are many sites in town where it would be desirable to install guard rails and that they have asked the Highway Department to draw up a list of proposed sites and request bids from local contractors. At the next annual town meeting, voters will be asked to approve a special appropriation for the project.

The following building permit applications were approved: Warren and Beverly Goodman, for the construction of a breezeway that will attach two buildings on their Hupi Road property, converting them to a single-family dwelling, submitted by Stefan Grotz, their attorney; Eric and Holly Montgomery, to enlarge the existing art studio at their Fairview Road property, submitted by John Piretti, the builder; also to Eric and Holly Montgomery, to renovate the existing shop at their Fairview Road property to include a wood floor, heat, electricity, insulation and garage doors, submitted by John Piretti, the builder; Wijay Ratnathicam, for the construction of a deck and an enclosed porch added onto his home on Route 23, submitted by Thomas M. Ross; Daniel Kurtz of New York, New York, for a one-story family room addition to his Route 23 house, submitted by John Dinan, Jr., the builder; Mel Wallick of Rockville Centre, New York, for the renovation and enlargement of a screen porch and deck at his Beartown Mountain Road house, submitted by Mark Amstead, the builder; Alan and Nancy Ratner of Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, for the construction of a new house on Blue Hill Road, submitted by Larry Gould and Floyd Ryan of Gould/Ryan Construction Company of Otis; Tim and Ellen McGaughy of Great Barrington, for the construction of a new house on Blue Hill Road.

— Maggie Leonard

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CHURCH NEWS

The daily pilgrimage to the church's post office box can be quite an adventure. Invariably, I run into many friends, whose interesting conversations keep me abreast of life in our community. Then, of course, there's the encounter with our Post Master, Walter Parks, who always leaves me with the feeling that I've just gotten the world's best bargain on a 29-cent stamp. But the real adventure comes when I actually open the post office box. You should see the type of mail a church receives — everything from denominational resources to religious advertisements to subscription bargains to financial statements to pleas for help from every worthy cause under the sun. And, as we all can attest to, there are many worthwhile causes in this world of ours to support.

Recently, we received a letter addressed "To the Pastor of any Church or Member in Massachusetts." The return address was Stinnett, Kentucky. Inside was a brief, handwritten letter by a mother of three young children, asking for "any used clothes or household items you no longer need." The letter went on to speak of her three children — Marina, a three-month-old girl, and two sons, nine-year-old Travis and Benjamen, aged three. I shared the letter with our Parish Council, and we were all touched by the sincerity and need this woman expressed.

So I gave her a call (she had included her phone number) and I found out that her husband was a coal miner who had been laid off with 250 other workers. Her grandmother had just died and her father is battling skin cancer. They are members of the Stinnett Holiness Church and had heard about the town of Monterey from her mother, who had read {something about it in a magazine." I then learned that they lived in an area that I had visited several years ago when I was producing a movie for the Presbyterian Self-Development of People program. What an incredibly impoverished section of our country, but what wonderful, down-to-earth people!

Our church has decided to adopt the Hacker family and has sent a box of used clothing. We're also planning to send a Christmas gift box. If you'd like to make a donation, we would welcome your support. Just call Theresa O'Brien (269-7471) or Nancy Rowley (528-6942). This seems like a wonderful opportunity to help others in need.

Our church is also aware that there are needy people right here on our own doorstep. In the past, we've helped families in our community during difficult times. Even though we are a congregation of limited resources, our mission is to help others. If you know of a family that needs assistance, please feel free to call me (528-5850), and our church family will do its best to reach out in appropriate ways.

Yes, there are many worthwhile causes to support, and it's very difficult to know just where we should place our priorities. But if there's one thing the Christmas spirit teaches, it's that God uses the commonplace and the common person to make a difference in this world. During this holiday season, may each of us discover new ways to reach out in love to one another.

Mark your holiday calendar: On December 13, the Aerie family will hold an open house at the parsonage. Bring a holiday dessert sample to share. Homemade soup and wassail punch will be served from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Then, come on down to the church for some great music at our holiday concert by Amaryllis at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $5, with reduced prices for children.

On December 24, our Christmas Eve service of carols and candle lighting begins at 7:00 p.m. Join us for an inspirational evening.

— Cliff Aerie

NOTICE

Donald Amstead, Highway Superintendent, and the Board of Selectmen have announced that the following roads, or sections thereof, will not be plowed or sanded during the winter season, from November 15, 1992 to April 1, 1993:

Brett Road
Carrington Battaille Road
Chestnut Hill Road
Fairview Road
Gould Road
Mt. Hunger Road
Swan Road
Wallace Hall Road
Wellman Road

MONTEREY GRANGE NEWS

Monterey Grange #291 met on October 21 for a variety program.

The Grange recently received a five-year pin from the Berkshire Chapter of the Red Cross for the Grange's participation in their projects.

Brother Richard Trudeau was recently presented with a ribbon for his entry in the State Grange Crafts Contest.

The Grange won first prize for its exhibit at the local post office during Grange Week in April.

Lecturer Mary Wallace won the National Lecturers Performance Award from the National Grange for duties performed as Lecturer. The Grange also won fourth prize from the National Grange for community service. There were 26 entries.

The Grange met again on November 4 for a variety program. Lecturer Mary Wallace gave an informative report on the State Grange session at Sturbridge.

Our fund-raising raffle was a great success. The Grange would like to thank everyone who helped. Winners' names were drawn at the November 4 meeting. The gift certificate from the Monterey General Store was won by Susan Anderson. The gift certificate from Wards Nursery was won by Gail Heath. The gift certificate from Price Chopper was won by Gloria Lorkin. The basket of cheer from Domaneys was won by Louise Sweet. The basket of groceries donated by Monterey Grange members was won by Hazel Lee. The tote bag donated by Anne Vickerman was won by Arlene Stedman. The gourmet's delight, donated by Monterey Grange members was won by Alicia Brazie.

The Grange met again on November 18 for Pirate Bingo, which was enjoyed by members and guests alike. Worthy Master Tillie Butler presented a blue ribbon and check to Eleanor Kimberley and Florence Brown for their work on the conservation exhibit at the Monterey Post Office during Grange Week in April. She also made the presentation of the National Grange Lecturer's Achievement Award to Mary Wallace.

The next meeting will be December 2. The theme of the program is Preparing for Christmas. Members are asked to bring articles for Christmas cheer boxes.

— Mary Wallace

HUNTING REGULATIONS

Deer season for shotguns is November 30-December 9, and for primitive firearms, December 21-23. As a result of the bylaw passed at the annual town meeting last May, new regulations are in force for hunting on private property in Monterey.

All hunters on private property are required to have the written permission of the land owner on their persons. In order to facilitate the written permission, the town has made available triplicate, NCR-type forms. Land owners may pick up the forms at the town hall, Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m.-noon and 1:00-4:00 p.m., except for Wednesday afternoons, when the office is closed.

Signs stating the hunting regulations have been erected at all the entrances to Monterey. Funds for the signs and the permission forms were donated by the Monterey Landowners Association. Our special thanks go to Lew Scheffey and Ellen Pearson.

The Monterey bylaw stipulates fines of $100 for a first offense and $100-300 for a second offense. The bylaw is enforced by local law enforcement officers. Monterey's officers are Police Chief Gordon Hamm, Gordon Backhaus, Rita Backhaus and Stephen Hastedt. The number to call is 528-3211.

Environmental police officers from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife will also be patrolling. If you see hunting violations such as hunting after dark, or on Sunday, or hunting with a rifle, call 1-800-632-8075. This number connects a dispatch center with an officer on patrol.

— Monterey Board of Selectmen

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LAKE GARFIELD ASSOCIATION
Lake Management Report

Question: What is a lake?

A sink at the bottom of a watershed? a recreational facility for fishing, water sports and swimming? a water resource? a biological ecosystem? a tax revenue enhancement? a living organism? an endangered species?

Answer: All of the above.

Recognizing that the lake is all these things, the Lake Management Committee has begun an assessment of the lake's well being. All who live in and use the land in the watershed are lake managers. What we can do to effect the best practices for optimal lake quality? We hope to find answers by looking at several aspects of the problem.

The first step is to get baseline information and professional correlation with our past data. Berkshire Environmental Consultants, the agency approved at our August meeting, has reviewed our 1989 data and completed a survey. They will develop a set of recommendations for long-range care of the lake and evaluate the effectiveness of present practices. That report is in process and will be summarized here in the future.

The Lake Management Committee is also investigating other resources for monitoring and maintaining the lake. To this end, I (Patricia Edelstein) joined Association Vice President Martin Cherneff at the Congress of Lakes and Ponds (COLAP) fall training session on October 24. Between us, we covered all available workshops and met with state limnologist Rick McEvoy. We were told that the Clean Lakes Program is at the end of its lifespan, with no new grants coming out. There is an ongoing restructuring of state agencies. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is becoming a purely regulatory agency, with its limited management functions being transferred to the Department of Environmental Management (DEM). To partially fill the gap, there is a program located at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst called Massachusetts Waterwatch Partnership (MassWWP). Begun in 1990, this program is a statewide collaboration of scientists, educators and volunteer citizens to collect water quality information. Under the direction of Professor Gerald Schoen, MassWWP will provide assistance in building a file of information on a lake by training volunteers in water monitoring. Groups that have already joined MassWWP were enthusiastic about the information they have gained. They have saved precious dollars by learning to do the basic monitoring themselves, freeing funds for higher professional analyses of the data they collect.

MassWWP will hold training sessions in the spring of 1993. We plan to attend. Professor Schoen told us that photographic records and journal entries about the lake provide valuable support data for the file. This statement was seconded by some groups whose lakes were invaded by weeds, and who felt that they had missed early signs because no one was collecting data on a regular basis. So, what can you do? This year, become an observer. Begin a journal on Lake Garfield. Each entry should have the date, the temperature and weather, lake level, any change from this time last year or last time you were here. Be consistent, and just record what you see. Bring this data to our 1993 meetings. One watchword of MassWWP is, "knowledge and a database gives leverage for the future."

The primary cause of premature aging and death of lakes is excess phosphate input. The phosphate bill #S931 has passed the House with some amendments that may weaken it, according to COLAP. Please write to State Representatives urging them to pass as effective a bill as possible. We also we plan to draw up an updated list of non-phosphate cleaning products, so you can choose products which are least harmful to the lake.

Septic waste from poorly functioning systems contributes phosphates and other contaminants to lake waters. Marty attended a workshop on this topic. A subcommittee will report on this topic in future issues.

In the wake of reports that some Massachusetts lake fish were contaminated with mercury, we wrote to state agencies about our own lake fish. The final reply came from DEP Assistant Chief Engineer, R. Isaac, PhD, P.E., who stated, "the limited information we have from clean lakes suggests that the only contaminant that bioaccumulates to unacceptable levels in edible fish tissue is mercury, and that this occurs in water bodies such as Lake Garfield only in large predatory fishes such as bass and pickerel. For this reason, it might be prudent to encourage those who eat large numbers of fish on a regular basis to limit their intake to smaller fish or non-predatory fish such as perch, bullheads or other panfish." Our request for definitive fish sampling has been put on file for future implementation if funds become available, but the above recommendation is prudent advice.

— Patricia Edelstein

CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM

Holiday time is approaching, and we must try not to get caught up in the commercial craziness of the season. Parenting young children is very time consuming. *Growing Together*, a publication of the Cornell Cooperative Extension, Greene County, has some tips for saving time:

The purpose of time management is not to cram more chores into our busy lives. It's to save on the mundane so we have time for what's really important. Read the following tips, then apply the ones you like.

1. Set priorities. If you take on a new project, you'll have to give up something else, so decide what's important.

2. Learn to overlook dust. Don't waste time trying to be a perfect housekeeper.

3. Don't spend time when you're alone doing what you could do with others. For example, don't fold laundry while everyone's gone. That's the time to work on a personal project.

4. Not all convenience food is junk. Look for quick, nutritious meals and use them whenever you can.

5. Use the slow cooker and microwave whenever possible.

6. Tackle the toughest job you have now — then you won't have to waste time worrying about doing it later.

7. Remember the K.I.S.S. principle: Keep It Simple, Stupid. The more stuff you collect, the more time you'll spend taking care of it.

8. Stash your iron in a closet. Get it out only when absolutely necessary.

9. Keep a list of errands and other shopping you need to do along with your grocery list. Do all your errands at one time.

Now that you have saved all that time, please try to attend our Christmas party on December 17, at 10:00 a.m. at St. James Church, Great Barrington. We are expecting a visit from Santa Claus. Our raffle drawing will be held during the party. Proceeds from the raffle will help meet playgroup expenses.

For those families facing a financially difficult time, Christmas programs for children are available. Call Community Services, the Watson Fund or K-Mart for information.

— Claudette Callahan

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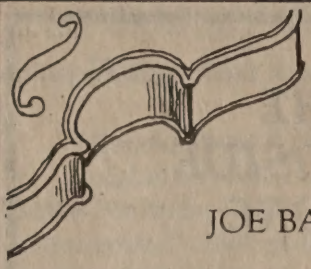

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TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

The Town Hall Committee is now a living, breathing entity, composed of Georgiana O'Connell (representative of the Selectmen), Nick Wool, Wayne Burkhart, Fred Vorck, Martin Cherneff (chairman) and Kim Hines (clerk). We have met five times to date, getting organized and setting objectives and a schedule in accordance with the charter given to us by the Selectmen.

Our first order of business is to establish Monterey's needs for a new town hall. Sixty-eight questionnaires were mailed to various town departments, commissions, committees, associations and officials. The questionnaires are designed to supply information about specific needs, such as size, offices, meeting rooms, storage, amenities, etc. The information will be compiled into one statistical informational document that will be used to develop preliminary sketches and floor plans. Based on these sketches, we will be able to establish the capital cost of a new town hall. Alternative methods of satisfying the town's needs will also be examined.

Members of the committee have met with officials of Becket, who have recently broken ground for their new town hall. We also plan to meet with officials of Tolland, who have recently completed a new town hall.

At the request of the committee, the Selectmen wrote to our state legislators as well as our U.S. Congressman to solicit their assistance in this project. We have heard from State Senator Jane Swift, Representative Chris Hodgkins and Congressman John Olver. Nick Wool of our committee has already met with Chris Hodgkins, who was very helpful. All the legislators have offered the support of their offices for this project. The committee will meet with each of these legislators to learn about the amount and type of assistance they can provide.

Our overall objective is to gather sufficient information to present at the town meeting in May, 1993. The committee meets at least once a month in open session. Our next meeting will be an input session for interested citizens and representatives of various town committees. It will be held on Tuesday, December 8 at 7:30 at the firehouse. For more information, call me at 528-2949.

— Martin H. Cherneff

OUR TOWN
O, Little Town

This is the season of the year when we try to lose some of our cynicism and find new reasons for faith and generosity. And enduring popular figure for the season is Dickens' character, Scrooge, who changes his cynical nature through sharing during the holiday season. So, in our town, we'll put our civic Scrooge down under the bridge and enter the spirit of the season.

The first menorah candle will be lit on the evening of December 19, to start the eight-day Hanukkah feast. Christmas celebrations and music start long before the 25th, and everyone cheers the winter solstice and anticipates the magic of New Year's Day. Something spiritual stirs in each of us as we resolve to live more joyfully and be more helpful to friends and neighbors.

Of course, the old troll will keep muttering there, under the bridge: It's unsafe, you know. Taxes are bad; we can't fix River Road; the lake is too low. He's not about to recycle things; the town center is in terrible shape, and those crazy lines on the streets. We can't change our zoning bylaws — they're terrible. You can't succeed without going to college; they don't keep our streets sanded like they used to. Businesses have to get big or fail — we could never organize waste treatment for Lake Garfield or Lake Buel — people drive too fast. Why do they keep trying to close our kindergarten — leave Route 23 alone — composting toilets are not cool. Why don't they allow hunting in town any more — people aren't as friendly as they used to be, and it rains too much.

We will give half an ear to old Scrooge — everyone needs to be listened to. But, during this season, we can especially celebrate the more positive and hopeful things we've seen and done in our town.

We remember that we have done impossible things together recently. We built a bridge, organized, built and maintain a firehouse, made a skating/hockey rink. We have a land preservation trust, a historical society and The Bidwell House to help us link our past with the present and the future. We support a church, store and library along with the Grange in the town center, though modern forces try to spin us outward. And around the town, pockets of unconventional wisdom keep sprouting from our rocky ground: a pottery kiln, small farming projects, the work of artists and craftspeople, and quiet and tenacious enterprises of many kinds. And we celebrate the commitment of families who draw adopted children into their homes.

These are some of the signs of hope which endure beyond the mutterings of our collective troll. And this is a good season to remind ourselves of the goodness and hope and greatness we have among us.

O, Little Town . . .Peace to all on earth.

— Wayne Burkhart

COMMUNITY DINNER NEWS

About thirty people gathered for the Community Dinner on November 11. After our agreeable socializing and repast, Cliff Aerie introduced his longtime friend, William Wildey, who is the Northern New England Regional Director of Church World Service.

Mr. Wildey shared his experiences in various parts of Africa, where the non-denominational CROP program works. This program helps local people start projects in irrigation, well drilling and farming. The emphasis is on the simple and practical, using available resources.

A $50 donation in the name of the Community Dinner participants was made to the CROP program.

The next Community Dinner will be held in March, hosted by Melissa Mason.

— Gige O'Connell

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MONTEREY ROUND TABLE

The Monterey Round Table met at the town hall on October 21 and November 18. In response to our September survey and appeal, Laurel Tewes presented an idea for the HELP project, which was discussed at both our most recent meetings. You may remember that the HELP project started with the idea that there are people in Monterey who need a hand doing small tasks and that we might be able to form a community network to meet this need.

Laurel told us about a system, already in use in other communities, called Time Share, or Care Share, or something similar. The system creates an energy bank, or exchange money to facilitate the bartering of time. For example, you might baby sit for three hours and put those hours into the energy bank to exchange for a small carpentry job when you need it. Such a system gives everyone a chance to contribute, but if someone is unable to earn credits, another person might donate accrued exchange money. Some people might choose to save exchange money as insurance to be used for old age or times of disability.

The HELP project is still very much in the formative stage, and we encourage and welcome those of you who would like to join us. It is very exciting to look at how these ideas (and new ones, too) might fit with the needs of Montereyans. We won't have a meeting in December, but we'd love to see you at the January meeting. It will be held on January 20, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. at the home of Marge and Gerry McMahon on the corner of Route 23 and Tyringham Road.

— Angie Sherrard

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THE BIDWELL HOUSE

Season's Greetings from The Bidwell House. We hope that you will be able to join us for our Holiday Open House the first weekend in December, when the house will be festively decorated with a colonial theme. On Saturday, December 5, the house will be open to the public from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Admission will be $4 for adults and $2 for children under 18. On Sunday, December 6, we will host our Members and Contributors Open House from noon-4:00 p.m., with refreshments and holiday music.

I hope you have all received information about The Bidwell House's new membership program. Now is a perfect time to join the Friends of The Bidwell House, so you can come to our special holiday party on December 6. Memberships make great holiday gifts, too! If you need more information about gift memberships, or if you did not receive a packet in the mail, please call me at 528-6888.

A special thank you to Carole Zarlin for leading the behind-the-scenes tour of our collection of 18th century linsey-woolsies and quilts on November 1. Nine people attended this successful and fun workshop.

With the closing of the house for the season, we have begun our children's education program. On November 6, I visited Monterey's kindergarten class to present a program on the house. This was followed by the class visiting the house on November 20. We thank Susan Anderson, Linda Thorpe and the parent volunteers who helped with the tour.

This winter, we are also helping six Girl Scout troops from Monterey, Otis and Great Barrington obtain their folk art badges. The program will include tours of the house, a January workshop on 18th century herb gardens, and a March workshop about early American folk art, music, dance, pottery and story telling, led by artists from Monterey and the surrounding communities.

We hope to see you the weekend of December 5-6 to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season!

— Lisa Simpson

MONTEREY WILDLIFE SURVEY

Mammals: (from Dale Duryea, our wildlife management officer) An albino deer, seen on New Marlboro Road, and also on Route 23; beavers, something like ten colonies in town, not counting the fourteen or so colonies in Beartown Forest; muskrats, much disturbed by this year's deep drawdown on Lake Garfield, the 30-40 usually in Parker's Cove have all left. The mounds of mud and weeds at the water's edge in the lower part of the lake are not muskrat houses, but "feed pushups," platforms left by the muskrats after they have been feeding. They are usually built up over rocks or stumps. Raccoons also disturbed by the drawdown, very few signs of their usual feeding along the lake shore; moose tracks and "sign" on Brett Road; a large bobcat at Harmon and New Marlboro Road; coyotes serenading across the road from the Duryeas; fox on Route 23 at the Gould Farm turn; bear sightings on Harmon, Sandisfield and Cronk Roads; opossums, all over; squirrels, "seem to have gone bonkers, running around all over;" porcupines, several calls about property damage; minks, a family reported living in the basement of a house on the southeast shore of Lake Garfield.

A list from Gould Farm: (Loul McIntosh) Since starting up bird feeders in mid-October, woodpeckers (downy and hairy), chickadees, juncos, nuthatches (white-breasted and red-breasted), blackbirds, blue jays, cardinals, doves, finches (purple, gold, house), pine siskin, sparrows (house, song, whitethroat, field, chipping). In addition, bear tracks at the compost, lots of deer, turkeys, starlings, crows, raccoons, skunks, chipmunks, pigeons and (in the house) mice. Great blue heron in the back pond, late in the summer.

Bluebirds: The winter issue of the newsletter from the Berkshire Sanctuaries reports on the Bluebird Project: 316 fledglings made it from 143 nests (somewhat lower than last year), and several banded birds nested four or five miles away from where they were observed last year. In addition, here in Monterey, Joyce Scheffey reports a fatality and no family at one nest, but three fledglings raised in another. Barbara Tryon says that after a long spell of no bluebirds, they have been back at Lowland Farm for the last five or six years.

Brian Fearon, who reported the bear on Sandisfield Road, says there are at least two moose between here and Worcester and a mountain lion seen in Hinsdale.

The Kimberley family reports a lynx on Town Hill Road and also opossums, doves and raccoons.

The Tryons also report hairy and downy woodpeckers and a long hunt by a coyote, mousing up and down in one of their fields.

From Alice Howell and Walter Andersen: "a beautiful bright red fox trotting up Beartown Mt. Road as pretty as you please."

The Schicks also report a red fox in their yard one morning, as well as a porcupine (not at the same time). Also, a bobcat crossing Route 23 in Great Barrington.

— David P. McAllester

MONTEREY LIBRARY NOTES

A New Face: We are pleased to have Edith MacAusland of Ashley Falls available to help us when needed at the circulation desk. Please welcome her!

Some Recent Acquisitions:

The Stars Shine Down, by Sidney Sheldon
Driving Force, by Dick Francis
The Senator, by Richard Burke
The Secret History, by Donna Tart

We can't attempt to list all our new books, but hope that if there is a title you'd like, you will come in and ask for it. We may have it, and if we don't, we can probably get it for you.

Book Discussion Groups: The series that we have sponsored have been very popular. Many people have asked when we will have another program. We're hoping to have a series in the summer of 1993. More later. . .

Wanted: Any information on the Monterey Library, facts or anecdotes. We missed our 100th anniversary in May, 1991, but we'd like to celebrate this coming year. If you have anything to offer, please call me at 528-0150, or stop in at the library.

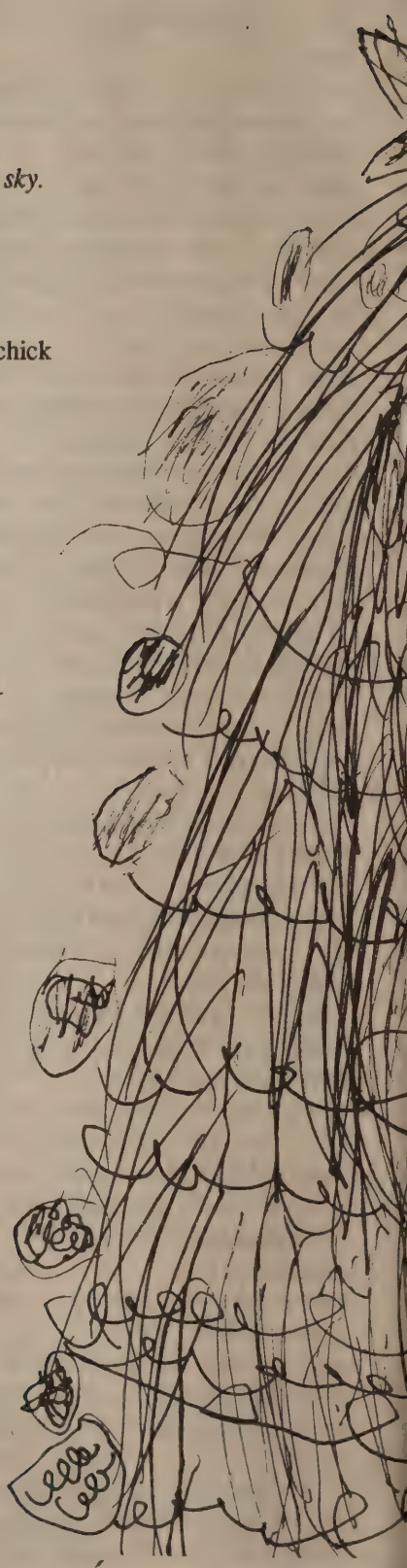
Telephone Reference Service: We are a small library and cannot have a large reference collection. However, we do have the services of the reference department at the Springfield Public Library available to us by phone. If you want to write a letter of complaint (or compliment) to the president of General Motors, but don't know his name or address, come to the Monterey Library. We have been able to answer some strange questions and will try to help answer yours.

— Anne Marie Makuc

WALKING THE DOG

Raindrops sting my eyes.
Reflections of the world
broken in puddles beneath my feet,
The trees black against
the bright, pale blue of the cloudy, full-moon sky.
The air is filled with the quiet
of raindrops on fallen leaves.
The world is wet.

— Morgan Schick



SPACE

Move over, stars,
Asterisks of light
In the darkness of the blue.
Self-luminous,
Full of nuclear energy and gravitation,
You have for eons been the prima donnas,
The spangled ornaments of the firmament.
But now we need more room.
Have you wept at the crowding?
Pressures and numbers have built up
Like winged insects that proliferate
And swarm.
Move over, stars.
The darts of men have taken to the air
And there is not enough room.

— Nancy Adams

A SMILE

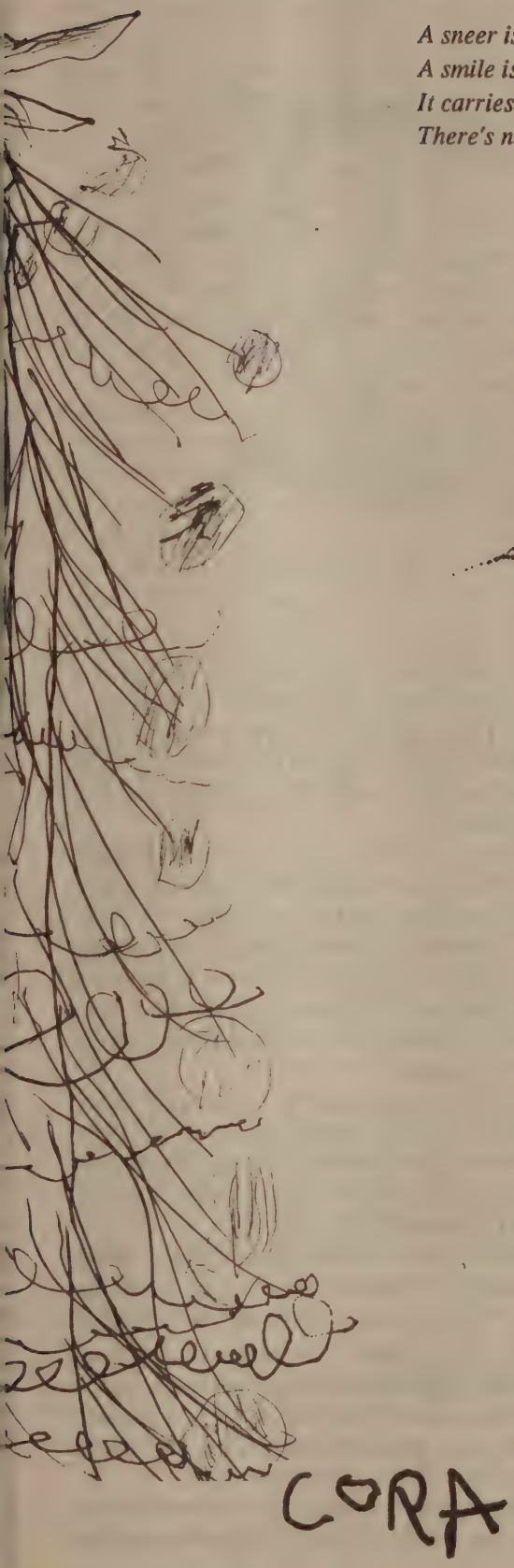
A sneer is such a jaded, hurtful thing,
A smile is like a bird upon the wing—
It carries you for miles, and miles, and miles,
There's no sum big enough to pay for smiles.

— Sue Moody

NOVEMBER 18, 1992

He is a first-class professional,
sort of an old-fashioned person,
aware of his own limitations,
neither fish nor foul (sic),
a peculiar if compelling man.
Who needs such a thing?
It will take more than a menu change,
a searching, inward look,
a mutual endeavor,
to protect them from retribution.
The whole time, everything was a lie.
That's a core value.
The irony borders on the unspeakable—
We don't silence our critics, we co-opt them.
I always felt the impossible was possible.
It's been a long couple of years.

— D.R. Strange



FLYING SQUIRRELS, GLIDING AT NIGHT

The flying squirrels are among our most common small mammals, and they often live near people, even in attics. We may hear them rustling and squeaking, but since we almost never see them, we often assume these sounds come from mice or birds. Even if we do see a flying squirrel, soaring across a path or road at night, we are likely to think it is a pale bird.

I am fairly well acquainted with flying squirrels, for a person, because I have cats and a bird feeder. Thanks to the cats, I am familiar especially with the tail of the flying squirrel, which is the only part that is left by the time I get up in the morning. The tail, even by itself, is remarkable and beautiful. It is specialized for flight and steering, so its design is unusual among mammals.

If you have cats, you may have found a flattened tail, up to four inches long, which is silvery grey to brownish on the top side and white below. If you think about the small animals you normally see by day and try to figure out which one this tail fits, you will be puzzled.

Thanks to my bird feeder, I have seen the flying squirrel with tail attached. Our feeder is fastened to the house, just outside the kitchen window. After dark, we often sit there, with the light on, and a movement in the feeder will catch our eye. If it is not a raccoon or a deermouse, the night visitor gobbling down seeds is sure to be a flying squirrel, or maybe several of them. We once had three in the feeder at once, sitting up on their haunches like other tree squirrels, shelling sunflower seeds.

We have two kinds of flying squirrels in these parts. Their habits are similar, but one kind is a little bigger than the other and has lead-colored underfur. The fur is a soft brown on the tips, except for the belly, where it is white, and there is a darker stripe just where the two colors meet, along the squirrel's side. Seen from below, the flying squirrel is white; from above, it is fawn to grey color.

Our smaller flying squirrel, *Glaucomys volans*, weighs up to 3.5 ounces, and its belly fur is white all the way to the roots. If you find a flying squirrel and gently ruffle the belly fur and find it to be all white, you will know it is a southern flying squirrel.

Most naturalists writing about flying squirrels make it a point to mention that they are sweet and friendly and make nice pets, provided you don't mind a lot of activity at night. Now we have to say that although they might make nice pets, you are not legally allowed to experience this unless you have a license to do so, and even then, you can't keep a wild animal unless it is for purposes of rehabilitation.

You can admire flying squirrels without "having" them, though. If you are lucky enough to see them

zooming about at night, you will find that they do not truly fly. The bats are the only mammals which really fly. The flying squirrel climbs up a tall tree or building. There it hangs on tight with long claws and leans this way and that, getting a good fix on its target. Finally, it curls itself into a ball and springs out from its hind feet. As soon as it is airborne, it straightens out horizontally, and its "wings" balloon up on either side of its body. These are actually skin membranes, covered with fur, which stretch on each side from foreleg to hind leg. The tail is stretched out flat and can be turned from side to side to work as a rudder. The squirrel can change the tension on its "wings," combining this with ruddering to produce tight steering. At first, its flight is steeply downward, but it quickly flattens out for a long glide, and, at the end, it pulls its front end up vertically and usually lands against the lower part of a tree trunk. Immediately, it darts around to the other side, in case it has been pursued, and starts up to the top again for another takeoff. From high on a 60-foot tree, a flying squirrel can sail 150 feet. It controls the angle of descent, its speed and direction so closely that it can soar through the woods, turning and twisting 90 degrees or more to dodge trees and branches.

Flying squirrels often live in hollow trees. In the winter, they do not hibernate, but they group together for warmth and sociability, and there may be as many as fifty in one tree. Sometimes, flying squirrels will roof over a bird's nest and move in. Their diet is varied, including the nuts and seeds of hickories, beech, ash, white oaks, pines and fir trees, also mushrooms, persimmons, serviceberries, apples, wild grapes, bark, sugar maple blossoms, sleepy birds, eggs, nestlings, moths, beetles, insect larvae and, of course, bird seed.

Flying squirrels have the big, bulging eyes of the nocturnal creature and a playful attitude. In 1849, John James Audubon and John Bachman watched in a grove of nut trees:

About sunset the flying squirrels began to appear, until not less than 200 were in sight, sailing and coasting in air from tree to tree, scores at a time, crossing and re-crossing in all directions, apparently for the joy of flight.... When it was too dark for further observation, the naturalist left them, but the party was still at its height.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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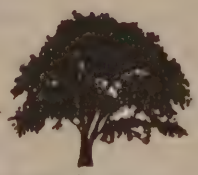

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WHO'S WHO IN MONTEREY
Bonner McAllester

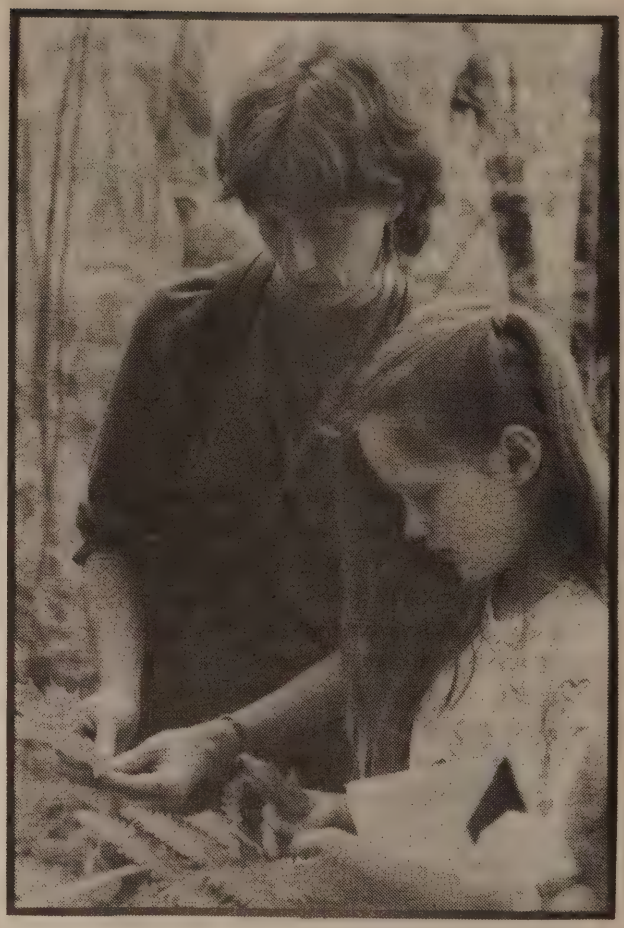
Bonner was born in Middletown, Connecticut and grew up as a faculty child at Wesleyan University. She has known Monterey all her life, first as a visitor, weekends and summers, at the Keyes place, owned by her mother's family since 1879, and then as a settler on her own piece of the property. Before she started homesteading here in 1974, she spent several summers on biological field trips, visiting Native American friends in Arizona and trekking in Nepal. Her BA was in biology at Antioch College, with a year of marine biology at the University College of North Wales, and she did graduate work in the same field at Oregon State University.

She spent the summer of 1973 as a nature guide and horse wrangler at the Darwin Ranch in Wyoming, and there she met Joe Baker, another biologist. They were married in Connecticut that December and spent the rest of the winter at another Wyoming ranch planning a nature school. The school didn't materialize, and Bonner and Joe decided to start their own subsistence farm in Monterey. As they cleared their garden, they built a tipi, then a shed, then a substantial log house. Work at Butternut Basin and Gould Farm also helped make ends meet.

It was Bonner and Joe who persuaded Bonner's parents, Susan and David McAllester, to build their retirement home in the Dowd Meadow east of them on Hupi Road. Joe was the contractor, and Bonner was the facilitator. The extended family has been a mutual aid society ever since.

Bonner has put her biology and writing skills to work in her bi-weekly nature column for the *Berkshire Eagle*. Some of these columns also appear regularly in the *Monterey News*. Joe moved from house building to finer woodworking tools as he trained himself, and also studied at Boston University to become a viol maker. Both Bonner and Joe have served the town officially, Bonner on the Conservation Commission from 1984-1989, and Joe on the Planning Board from 1980-1991.

The mountain laurel growing at the site of their Hunger Mountain farm was one of the influences on their decision to settle in Monterey. Their Mountain Laurel Band, after seventeen years, the oldest continuous dance band in the south Berkshires, has a devoted following. The band gives two dances a month at the Sheffield Grange and entertains widely over three states at parties and weddings. Joe is the caller and plays the guitar. Bonner plays the hammered dulcimer (made by Joe), penny whistle and spoons. Donny MacLean of Ancram, New York is their inspired fiddler. On occasion, several of their fans join the band, with banjo, concertina, piano or mandolin. The Harvest Moon Dance in the fall and the Maple Sugar Moon Dance in the spring are special events that add skits, singing and refreshments to the regular contra and square dancing.



Bonner McAllester and Sarah Pederson check out maple leaves during a nature class in 1990.

Bonner's nature articles have made her known all over the county. Her subjects range from moose to earthworms and birdwatching to farming. It may not be just a coincidence that her grandmother, Maude McAllester, wrote similar articles in the *Boston Herald* seventy years ago. Bonner has her own special mixture of wit, philosophy and recondite biological information. Her unabashed espousal of animal and vegetable rights

brings many letters of appreciation and an occasional sharp disagreement from her readers.

One of Bonner's many delights in Monterey is the nature class she inaugurated in 1989. Like similar classes she has taught at regional Audubon centers and local schools, it is an opportunity to share her enthusiasm for the miracles of natural history with a group of children. In Monterey, the class takes the form of field trips down the Konkapot River, around Brewer Pond, or through the woods from Greene Park to the firehouse. "It's always a treat to see how eager young people are to learn things," she says.

The family expanded with two infant daughters from India, Sudi from Bihar in 1985 and Cora from Madhya Pradesh in 1987. They are home schooling in third and first grade, respectively. Sudi has drawn about 1,000 horses, some of which have appeared in these pages, and now rides her own pony, Nubbin. Cora sometimes rides tandem on Bonner's horse, Lace, the latest animal addition to the family. There are also goats, cats, chickens, and wild neighbors from chipmunks to deer, and visits from a bear or two.

It is the human neighbors, also, who give Monterey its special meaning for Bonner and her family. They are all gregarious and love visiting or being visited by friends from near and far. Bonner finds herself in positions of responsibility in whatever the Berkshires offer: the Sunday School Committee of the South Berkshire Friends Meeting, the Board of Directors of the *Monterey News* (she's currently chairperson), the Committee on Agricultural Ethics (she wrote the report), the Monterey Food Co-op (she's the coordinator). "My plate is pretty full," she admits with a wry twinkle.

— David P. McAllester

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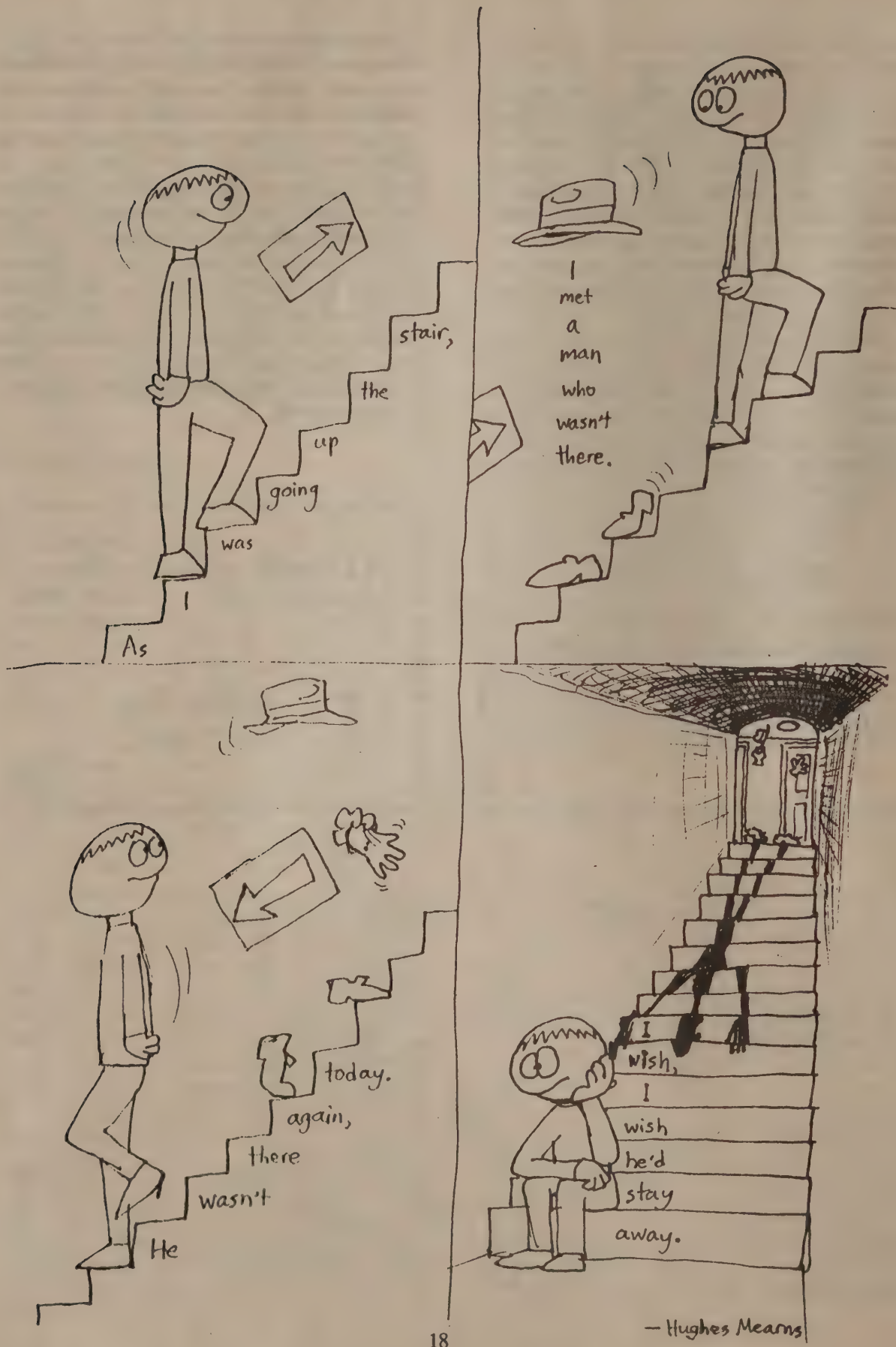
As I was going up the stair,
I met a man who wasn't there.
He wasn't there again, today.
I wish, I wish he'd stay away.
— Hughes Mearns

ON THE ROAD AGAIN
Owners of Sons, Cars and Cats Have No Time of Their Own

The sun and warmth of the South are beckoning. Here I sit in Mystic, Connecticut, wearing three pairs of pants, two sweaters and a down jacket, battling the cold in my camper. I'm "leg man" for my son, Tim. He is trying to buy a 150-year-old Greek Revival house, set on lovely old land, with lovely old trees and lovely old overgrown gardens. Painting, puttying, running errands, cooking in my camper for my eight-hour-regular-job son, and dived into bed at night, clustering my cat and dogs around me to keep warm. Oh, the life of a mother!

I decided to make a quick trip home to Monterey to get my mail. Tim said, "Your radiator is low on water and antifreeze. Better do it before you start out in the morning." I followed his instructions. I brought the antifreeze home in my little car. A blue bottle, you couldn't see inside. I got two gallon water bottles, antifreeze in one, water in the other, so I could put in half and half. I couldn't get the top off the antifreeze. I pushes while turning until I was blue in the face. I made a frenzied trip to the local diner, cornered a man at the counter, and he did it with a flourish. Back I went. A flashlight showed me the radiator was full, cap on, and we were off.

Two miles down the road, a passing driver stopped me. "Your back door is open." I ran back to close it, counting noses inside. The cat was gone! My beloved Siamese cat, Mio, who presented me with five surprise kittens in April, who was spayed in August, was gone. Back I went, looking, looking. She was nowhere. I decided to go sit by Tim's phone. All my animals have Tim's number on their tags (more permanent). I found my kidnapped Lhasa Apso in Orlando two years ago. The people who found her, shivering and covered with ticks and fleas, had called Tim.

As I was sitting there, I saw Mio racing back and forth. "You can't catch me!" An hour later, Mio was securely tied inside the camper. Off again.

Before Hartford, I noticed the heat wasn't coming on. The temperature was getting high. I stopped at a gas station. Not a service station — no garage. Inside, a gum-chewing gal was making hotdogs and selling everything from sunglasses to magazines, but there was no garage. Thank goodness for the man waiting for a friend outside. He opened my hood. No radiator cap! I hadn't tightened it down. Again, no water and antifreeze in the radiator. The man fished out the cap from the bowels of the engine, added what antifreeze I had left, plus water from the john. "Better get this checked out when you get home." I thanked him very much and went on my way.

Soon, Tim will be in his house, and I can be on my way south, with dogs and cat, enjoying the scenery of Virginia, Georgia and the Florida Keys!

— Joan Woodard Reed

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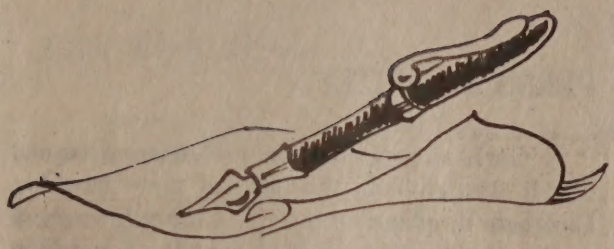

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

There is currently an issue in Monterey creating quite a bit of excitement. For many years, the townspeople and the summer residents have resided together, but never really been as one. It is ironic that now the townspeople must decide the fate of Lake Garfield with regard to boating and skiing.

The Lake Garfield Association has decided that the lake needs restrictions on boating and skiing, and has even gone so far as to try to implement restrictions with no legal authority. This has created quite a stir. The Lake Garfield Association consists of approximately sixty people (thirty households), and represents a minority of taxpayers on the lake. Boating restrictions will impact homeowners' recreation as well as property values. All homeowners must have a say and not just a small minority speaking for the rest.

Town residents will be asked to vote on a bylaw chance requested by the Lake Garfield Association to implement restrictions. These same town residents have no access to the lake whose fate they must decide. There is a boat ramp, but it is closed during the summer months. In order to launch a boat in the summer, a town resident must lower the boat in weed- and bug-infested water and paddle through a tube to enjoy the lake. How, covered with cobwebs and insect bites, are they to enjoy themselves? The year-round residents of Monterey should have access to the lake so they can also enjoy its recreation and beauty.

The townspeople of Monterey will be asked to vote on this issue that directly impacts Lake Garfield residents, while Lake Garfield residents have no legal say. This puts both parties at a disadvantage. The townspeople have not had an opportunity to utilize the lake and see for themselves the things the Lake Garfield Association cites as concerns, yet, they must cast a vote. The Lake Garfield residents must put their fate into the townspeople's hands and trust in their fairness and integrity.

I have lived on the channel, which is an area that is part of this debate, since 1956 and have raised my family here as summer residents. My children and most homeowners' children have completed the Coast Guard course in boating safety. If safety is the issue, then proper education in boating safety should be the solution.

When I chose to purchase waterfront property, I also chose to accept the impact the waves might have on my shoreline, as well as the noise created with recreational boating. Recreation and fun on the lake means noise, but if you want quiet woods and peaceful tranquility, then you should live in the woods and not on a lake.

The state boating laws that are being discussed are not new and are being followed by most boats. The buoy markers are excessive for our small lake, as there are very few boats that do not belong to homeowners (here year after year). These restrictions would be the same as putting a red light in town for Sunday mornings. We have only three weekends when we might have more than two ski boats at the same time.

— H. Louise Burns

To the Editor:

Every month, I look for Bonner McAllester's nature piece. It enhances my empathy for every species she mentions.

— Tertius Chandler

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Roger Tryon

PERSONAL NOTES

Our heart congratulations to **Neil Orenstein** and **Sarah Bingham** on the birth of their daughter, **Elizabeth Bingham Orenstein**. Elizabeth was born on October 26, at home on Beartown Road, weighing in at 7 lbs. 9 oz.

A warm welcome to **Barbie Shogren** and her daughter, **Pawnee**, who have moved to Monterey from the San Francisco area. They are getting settled now in the upstairs apartment at the "Hebert" house in the center of town.

Kudos to **Melissa Nagel**, who recently completed a seven-week course in nursing assistance at Berkshire Community College. Melissa, who many readers saw often behind the cash register this summer at the General Store, plans to continue nursing studies in Poughkeepsie, New York. Good luck, Melissa!

Can it be true? It seems **Welles Sellew** is getting "whooped" these days by his five-year-old granddaughter, **Tarsi Dunlop**, in a big Monopoly duel. Great work, Tarsi — keep it up! The Grand Master of Monopoly may well have met his match.

Vikki True telephoned to say how much she misses Monterey! She is in Philadelphia, playing Sophie Tucker in the musical, *Sophie, Totie and Belle* at Bistro Romano. The play was originally scheduled to run through the month of October, but it has proven so popular that it has been extended through December.

Very Happy Birthday wishes to **Stefan Grotz** on December 1, to **Matthew Christopher** on December 2, to **Elizabeth Deloy**, **Walter Andersen** and **Karen Schulze** on December 5, to **Simon Spagnoletti** on December 7, to **Mike Mielke III** on December 8, to **Tasha Grotz** on December 12, and to **Hedy Craven** and **Donald Amstead** on December 25.

And, best wishes to all for a joyous holiday season.

Your contributions are much appreciated! Any news, birthdays, you'd like to share? Jot down your items and drop them in the mail to me, just Route 23, or give me a call at 528-4519.

— Stephanie Grotz

CONTRIBUTIONS

Our thanks to the following people for their contributions during the past month:

Harry & Sylvia Allan
Anne B. & J.R. Pipal
Jim Volckhausen
Gloria & Mel Wallick
Asher E. Treat
Bob & Betsy Easterday
Frances Phoenix

CALENDAR

Saturday, December 5 — The Bidwell House open to the public, decorated for the holidays. 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Adults, $4; children under 18, $2.

Sunday, December 6 — Members and Contributors Open House at The Bidwell House, with refreshments and holiday music. Noon-4:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 12 —Holiday Fair, hosted by the Farmington River PTO at the new firehouse, Route 57, Sandisfield. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Penny auction, raffles, live entertainment, visit from Santa, crafts and gifts for sale, refreshments. Free admission. For more information, call Erica Fay at 258-4037.

Saturday, December 12 — SQUARE AND CONTRA DANCE, New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Special holiday halftime entertainment by the Seibert Dancers, of the Barrington Ballet School. Refreshments served. Adults $4, children $1 to dance until intermission. Information: 528-9385.

Sunday, December 13 — Holiday Open House at the parsonage. 4:00-7:00 p.m. For more information, see *Church News* elsewhere in this issue.

Tuesday, December 15 — Free blood pressure clinic. 9:00-10:30 a.m., downstairs at the town hall.

Thursday, December 24 — Christmas Eve service of carols and candle lighting. 7:00 p.m. at the Monterey Church.

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Business Manager ..... Barbara Gauthier
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Mailing Labels ..... Gould Farm

We invite your submissions of news items, opinions, stories, poetry, drawings and photographs. All editorial material should reach the editor by the 15th of the month before publication. For questions about editorial material, call the editor at 528-3128.

ADVERTISING

One-inch ad (1" x 3") ..... $ 2.50
Two-inch ad (2" x 3") 5.00
Three-inch ad (3" x 3") 7.50
Four-inch ad (4" x 3") 10.00

Back cover ads are double the above prices, and these positions are subject to availability. All ads should be submitted camera-ready and must fit into one of our standard spaces.
Please indicate the number of months you want your ad to run. You may include either payment in advance or billing information with your ad. For questions about advertising, call the advertising manager at 528-4835.

Drawings in this issue by Cora Baker, Bob Johnson, Ben Laux, Bonner McAllester and Robert Stoner.

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